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LETTER DATED 2 APRIL 1998 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the letter dated 2 April 1998 from Mr. Slobodan Milosevic, President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, addressed to the President of the Republic of Serbia, President of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, as well as the statement of the President of the Republic of Serbia, Mr. Milan Milutinovic on the letter of President Milosevic and the proposal of the Serbian Government calling of a referendum.

I would be grateful if you would have my letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

98-09509 (E) 030498

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Annex I

Yugoslav President S. Milosevic calls for a referendum

The President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Slobodan Milosevic, on Thursday morning, 2 April 1998, sent a letter to Serbian President Milan Milutinovic, Serbian Prime Minister Mirko Marjanovic and Serbian National Assembly President Dragan Tomic.

The following is the integral version of the text of the letter:

"To:

"The President of the Republic of Serbia

"The Prime Minister of Serbia

"The President of National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia

"It is well known that we have rejected the participation of foreign representatives in the resolution of the internal affairs of our country, and especially in the resolution of the problems in Kosovo and Metohija, which are the internal affair of Serbia.

"I believe that this position is of fundamental significance for the preservation of our country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Because of that, our country once again faces the threat of all possible forms of pressure.

"Those who want to dictate to the entire world how it should live and even think have an extremely negative and aggressive stand towards our determined position to resolve our problems as a sovereign State, without foreign interference. Over the past few days, we have heard how they have nothing against our people, that they even love us and are sorry that the people will be subject to pressures because the leadership is taking such a stand.

"I believe that we cannot accept such cynicism, which serves to justify pressure exerted in the name of democracy. I believe that, during the entire period of the crisis in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, we conducted a national policy, rather than a personal or even a partisan one. In this instance, too, our refusal to allow foreign actors to participate in the resolution of the internal affair of the Republic of Serbia - Kosovo and Metohija - also represents a national policy, not a personal or a partisan one.

"Whether this is true can only be decided by the citizens.

"This is why I am proposing that, in keeping with the Constitution and the laws of Serbia, you initiate proceedings for holding a referendum which would provide an answer to the question: 'Do you accept the participation

of foreign representatives in the resolution of the problems in Kosovo and Metohija?'

'I am availing myself of this opportunity to say that, at the same time, it is necessary to intensify efforts towards the constructive resolution of the problems which burden Kosovo and Metohija. This implies the speedy start of a dialogue and steps which will represent a solution for the equal affirmation of the interests of all who live in Kosovo and Metohija.

Slobodan MILOSEVIC'

Annex II

Serbian President Milutinovic issues a statement on the letter of President Milosevic

Serbian President Milan Milutinovic on Thursday 2 April 1998 supported Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic's initiative that Serbian citizens decide in a referendum whether foreign representatives should be included in efforts to resolve the problem in Kosovo and Metohija.

The following is Mr. Milutinovic's statement communicated by his office:

"The citizens of Serbia know what kind of pressures our country is facing because of its determination to preserve Serbia within its constitutional and historical boundaries and develop it as a State of equal citizens, in which all rights of national minorities will be guaranteed under the highest international standards. Under the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, sovereignty belongs to all citizens of Serbia and they exercise that sovereignty in a referendum. There are not many situations that so clearly call for a direct statement of opinion by all citizens of the Republic of Serbia as the issue of sovereignty and the preservation of its territorial integrity.

"Mindful of the fact that, in relation to this crucial matter, it is necessary for us to request a confirmation of our policy from the citizens themselves, I fully support the initiative of the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Slobodan Milosevic, that the citizens of Serbia decide in a referendum whether they accept that foreign representatives be included in our efforts towards resolving the problem in Kosovo and Metohija.

"Basing ourselves on the positions contained in the March 18 Declaration on the political process in Kosovo and Metohija, I believe that only through a constructive and intensive political dialogue can we arrive at solutions which will be in the long-term interest of all those living and working in Kosovo and Metohija."

Serbian Government proposes the calling of a referendum

The Serbian Government on Thursday unanimously accepted Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic's initiative that Serbian citizens should decide in a referendum whether foreign representatives should be included in the resolution of problems in Kosovo and Metohija.

According to a statement issued by the Serbian Information Ministry, at the beginning of Thursday's session Serbian Premier Mirko Marjanovic informed members of the Cabinet about the contents of the letter sent to him by President Milosevic.

The statement related that the Government had unanimously adopted the Yugoslav President's initiative and decided, in line with the law, to submit to the Serbian Parliament a proposal for calling a referendum in which Serbian citizens would decide whether they accepted that foreign representatives be included in the resolution of problems in Kosovo and Metohija.

The Government believes that the referendum on this issue is the right way to obtain a direct expression of the citizens' will and, thereby, an affirmation of the constitutional principle of the sovereignty of the people.

The Government unanimously decided to propose to the Parliament that the question posed in the referendum be worded as follows: 'Do you accept the participation of foreign representatives in the resolution of problems in Kosovo and Metohija?'